

DECLASSIFIED

TUESDAY
DECEMBER 29, 1953

Another day of spring-like weather.

I stopped in at Neuville and Vivien, the print dealers, and had a dreadful chock when I was told they were abandoning their business. It seems that two of the three partners are old and ill and no longer want to have their money tied up in slow-moving merchandise.

It is a ~~very~~ sad prospect for their clients, of whom they have many devoted ones. Their prices are reasonable and the place was like a club in that almost whenever one dropped in one was sure to meet ~~some~~ agreeable collectors, to say nothing of the delightful manners and keen interest of the proprietors. I made a habit of going there every few days for a brief chat and shall miss them all very much.

Frank Giles came to see me this morning. He had just come back from a holiday in England. He thinks the outlook for EDC has never been so bad and expresses the opinion that if it were put up for an immediate vote in the French Parliament he would bet 10 to 1 against its passage.

I have been talking back and forth on the telephone with Monnet and Van Helmont about the drafts of various papers setting forth the pros and cons of European unity.

Tonight we had a dinner of 28 at the house. It had started as a small festivity for Joe Alsop but soon broke out of numerical bounds. There were the Fourcades, Pinay, Margaret Biddle, André de Staercke, the Al Gruenthers, the Granards, the Walter Kerrs, the Sulzbergers, the Joyces, the Pattens, Gaston Palewski, the Elliott Strausses, the Baumgartners, Joe Alsop, lovely Odette Pol Roger, and a few others. We had a wonderful evening and did not break up until 2:00 o'clock.

Fourcade said he had been stabbed in the back for the Presidency of the Republic by the U.P.S., of whom he seemed to think Pétain was the chief devil,

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but he was ~~very~~ good natured about it. There is some talk of sending him as Resident General to Morocco.

A rumor also flew around of the possible appointment of Wilfrid Baumgartner as French Ambassador to Washington. He would be an ~~excellent~~ excellent choice but I should think would surrender his post as Governor of the Bank of France only with the greatest reluctance. His English is ~~very~~ good and he is one of the most gifted and attractive men in France, with a sweet wife, though she is quite deaf.

Al Gruenther, Palewski, and Arthur Granard had a long argument over the European Army. Pinay expressed himself to me as still being heartily in favor of European unification. André de Staercke, a real optimist, did his best to dispel Joe's gloom. He thinks in the spring the pressures on France for ratification of the EDC will prevail. He had just received a letter from Churchill asking him to come over to London for a further talk on this subject.

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